

## REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated March 21, 2005 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 031520005). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

### Status of the Claims

Claims 1 through 10 are currently pending in the above-identified application. Claims 3 through 7 have been previously withdrawn from consideration without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 2 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Also, new Claims 8 through 10 have been added. Entry of the amendments to Claims 1 and 2, and entry of new Claims 8 through 10, are respectfully requested.

As to the withdrawn claims, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file divisional application(s) on the subject matter of these claims.

### Additional Amendments

The Specification has been amended to correct formal errors and to better disclose and describe the features of the present invention. Entry of the amendments to the Specification is respectfully requested.

Also, the drawings have been amended to correct formal errors and to better disclose and describe the features of the present invention. Specifically, in Figure 1, arrows and curvilinear lines have been added to address the objection as to partial views. In Figure 2, lines and lead lines and numerals 2a, 3a, and 6 have been added to address the objection as to partial views. The reference to "FIG. 7" has been deleted, and Figures 7(i) through 7(ix) have been separately identified to address the objection as to partial views. In Figures 9A and 9B, the numeral "21a" has been added to indicate "21,21a". In Figure 10, the numeral "21" has been changed to "21a". In Figure 14, the spelling of "RETRIEVE" has been corrected. The reference to "FIG. 15" has been deleted, and Figures 15(1) through 15(5) have been separately identified to address the objection as to partial views. In Figure 16, the spelling of "CHOICE" has been corrected in Step

501 and “IN (e)” has been deleted from Step 515. In Figures 17A through 17H, the identifiers “(a) through (h)” have been respectively added to the corresponding figure. Also, in Figure 17F the spelling of “CHOICE” has been corrected. Entry of the amendments to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Formal Rejections/Objections:

The drawings, Figures 1, 2, 7 and 15, were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.84(h) as containing partial views. In response, the drawings have been amended, and replacement corrected drawing sheets are being concurrently submitted, as previously mentioned, and these drawing amendments include amendments addressing this objection to Figures 1, 2, 7 and 15. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings, and to Figures 1, 2, 7 and 15, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In response, Claim 1 has been amended and includes amendments addressing this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0051905 to Lucas, hereinafter the Lucas ‘905 Application. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Lucas ‘905 Application in view of the document “The Design, Development and Operation of a Distributed Inventory System, hereinafter the King document. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The above rejections of Claims 1 and 2 will be considered collectively.

In a tag management server of the present invention, such as recited in Claim 1, when information corresponding to a specific ID number of an article is successfully retrieved in the database, the tag management information is supplied to an inquirer. When the information is not retrieved in the database, the tag management server determines that the tag information is not normal information and provides a notice of such determination to the inquirer, so that the tag management information can be selectively supplied to an inquirer in response to inquiries based on the ID tag managed by the tag management server. Since the

ID number is a number specific to an article, tag management information corresponding to an ID number is intelligibly specified. The tag management information to be supplied to the inquirer can therefore be extracted from the database. In addition, by reading only an ID tag of an article in the inquiry, the inquiry locator (ID sort) and the ID number are specified, and information relative to the article can therefore be acquired easily.

In contrast, the Lucas '905 Application discloses a business model related to an inventory control. The Lucas '905 Application discloses a procedure that indicates an inquiry request is stored, the presence or absence of a reply is monitored by a periodical scan and, if the reply is absence, a warning notification is sent to a resource, such as a supplier, not to the inquirer. (See paragraphs [0080] to [0081] of the Lucas '905 Application)

In the case of the a tag management server of the present invention, such as recited in Claim 1, the procedure indicates an inquiry based on the ID tag having tag information, retrieving of the tag management information, when the tag information is normal tag information, and supplying to the inquirer, either the tag management information or a notice indicating a determination that the tag information is not normal tag information.

Moreover, the Lucas '905 Application does not disclose that the ID tag stores both an ID number and an ID sort, as respectively recited in Claim 1, and that the ID number is a number for a specific article.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a management server of the present invention, such as respectively recited in Claim 1, is not anticipated by the Lucas '905 Application.

As to the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 over the Lucas '905 Application in view of the King document, it is respectfully submitted that the King document was only cited as disclosing a teaching "design concepts for implementing a distributed inventory system" (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 031520005, page 7). Further, it is respectfully submitted that the King document likewise does not disclose the features of a tag management server of the present invention as described above. Therefore, in view of the above discussion, Claim 1 and Claim 2, which depends from Claim 1, are not obvious over the Lucas '905 Application in view of the King document.

Withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1 and 2 respectively under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1 and 2, consideration and allowance of new Claims 8 through 10, and consideration of withdrawn Claims 3 through 7, are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

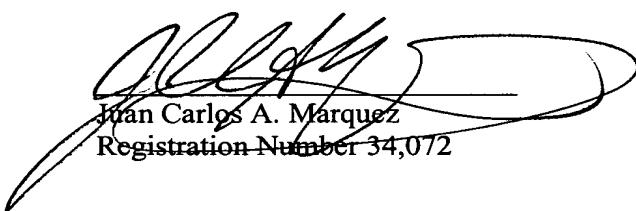
In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

In Figure 1, arrows and curvilinear lines have been added to address the objection as to partial views. In Figure 2, lines and lead lines and numerals 2a, 3a, and 6 have been added to address the objection as to partial views. The reference to "FIG. 7" has been deleted, and Figures 7(i) through 7(ix) have been separately identified to address the objection as to partial views. In Figures 9A and 9B, the numeral "21a" has been added to indicate "21,21a". In Figure 10, the numeral "21" has been changed to "21a". In Figure 14, the spelling of "RETRIEVE" has been corrected. The reference to "FIG. 15" has been deleted, and Figures 15(1) through 15(5) have been separately identified to address the objection as to partial views. In Figure 16, the spelling of "CHOICE" has been corrected in Step 501 and "IN (e)" has been deleted from Step 515. In Figures 17A through 17H, the identifiers "(a) through (h)" have been respectively added to the corresponding figure. Also, in Figure 17F the spelling of "CHOICE" has been corrected. Also, submitted concurrently herewith is a Letter to the Office Draftsperson that includes the corrected drawing replacement sheets that include Figures 1, 2, 7(i) through 7(ix), 9A, 9B, 10, 14, 15(1) through 15(5), 16 and 17A through 17H for these corrections. Entry of the amendments to the drawings is respectfully requested.